

**Testimony in Support of the FY 2007 Operating Budget Grant Request
For the Maryland African American Museum Corporation**

**Before the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee,
Health and Human Services Subcommittee,
The Honorable Gloria Lawlah, Chairman**

Thursday, March 2, 2006



Recipient of the 2001 Isosceles Award
Recipient of the 2005 AIA Building of the Year

**Located in Baltimore's Inner Harbor
Opened June 25, 2005**

- State-of-the-art galleries with interactive learning stations
- Statewide curriculum on Maryland African American history in partnership with MSDE
- Distance learning classroom
- A genealogy resource center
- An oral history listening and recording studio
- A theater hosting performances & symposia
- A museum shop, café and terrace
- International presence at www.AfricanAmericanCulture.org





Project Description

The Maryland African American Museum Corporation (the “Museum” and “MAAMC”) was created by the State of Maryland during the 1998 General Assembly as a public instrumentality and an independent unit of the Executive branch of State government. A 37– member board of directors manages the affairs of the corporation.

The Museum’s primary mission is to inform and educate the general public about the contributions and experiences of African American Marylanders; to provide research facilities for scholars, students, and others; and to provide public programming, educational opportunities, and community outreach. The new museum facility opened to the public on June 25, 2005 with rave reviews nationwide.

Since the Museum’s opening just seven months ago:

- ➔ The Museum welcomed more than 82,000 visitors in its first seven months and is ranking as one of the most popular African American museums in the nation and history museums in Baltimore;
- ➔ We’ve delivered more than 17,000 teacher kits of our elementary and middle school curriculum to teachers around the state of Maryland, have trained more than 115 teachers around the state, have begun developing the high school curriculum and continue to work with the Maryland State Department of Education (“MSDE”) and local education agencies to support curriculum usage, teacher training and field trips to the Museum;
- ➔ We’ve implemented a dynamic series of public programs including Saturday children’s activities, book signings, dance and music performances, storytellers, and issue forums;
- ➔ The Museum was honored with the Building of the Year Award from the American Institute of Architects;
- ➔ Our 300 volunteers have logged more than 10,000 hours, and we have hosted more than 20 interns from colleges and high schools;
- ➔ Our operating budget continues to be lean and balanced, supported by aggressive fundraising for operations, endowment and programs and diverse earned income revenue streams; and,
- ➔ We’ve opened 10 new nationally, critically-acclaimed exhibitions, including:
 - Building Maryland, Building America: Labor and the Black Experience;
 - Things Hold, Lines Connect: African American Communities in Maryland
 - The Strength of the Mind: Black Art and Intellect
 - Henrietta Marie: A Slave Ship Speaks
 - Distant Echoes: Black Farmers in America
 - From Freedom’s Shadow: The Building of the United States Capitol; and
 - African American Inventors.

FY2006 Operating Budget Grant Request:

The Museum is requesting \$2,714,000 to support 75% of its proposed FY 2007 \$3,618,000 operating budget.

Budget Analyst's Recommended Action

Adopt narrative that requests a memorandum of understanding on use of the general fund grant.

Museum's Recommended Action: The Museum concurs.